

### **Walter BEAN (1842-1896)**

Walter was baptised on 10 June 1844 at Bardwell. He migrated on the 'Trade Wind' with his parents, Robert (1809-1900) and Martha nee Huff (1813-1886) and siblings: Henry (1834-1903), George (1848-1928), Ann (1837-1910), Robert Jun. (1839-1914), James (1842-1882), John (1846-1906), Sabina (1849-1931), Charles (1853-1932) and Lewis (1855-1941). The Bean family were sponsored by WS Button of Launceston. Walter was aged 15, single, no education and a shepherd when arriving in Tasmania.

Walter married Mary Gutteridge (1858-1945) at the Church School Room, Nile, on 10 September 1890. Walter, aged 44, was a farm manager and Mary, 32, was the daughter of a storekeeper. They had three children. At the time of Walter's death his wife was pregnant with their third child, Ralph. Their eldest child, Vere Jack (Jack) (1891-1975) served in World War 1 overseas in France and Egypt. He was awarded the distinguished conduct medal which was promulgated in the Commonwealth of Australia Gazette, No. 135, dated 11 December 1919:

*From 25 Feb to 17 Sep 1918, for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty on all occasions. During operations in April at Dernancourt, he showed conspicuous gallantry and determination in conducting limbers of rations and wiring material, to the line under heavy shell fire. He did exceptionally good work in clearing the battalion quartermaster's store from Henencourt during an enemy barrage on 5 April. On 7 May, he again showed coolness and courage under heavy shelling. His work has been consistently of a very high order.*

Walter was aged 54 when he passed away on 4 September 1896. He was buried at St Peter's Anglican Church and Cemetery at Nile. Mary joined her youngest son, Ralph, in Melbourne and passed away in 1945 at Mordialloc in Victoria at the age of 87. At the time of her death, her grandson Jack, who was with the RAAF was reported missing over Germany. Son, Ralph, was killed after being struck by a car in Victoria in November 1967. He was aged 69.

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